

Week Ending Friday, May 23, 2003

Proclamation 7679—World Trade Week, 2003

May 16, 2003

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Trade expands prosperity, helps raise millions from poverty, and is an engine of economic growth within our Nation and around the world. Trade injects new energy and vitality into the global economy by fostering the exchange of ideas and innovations among people around the world. Free and open trade also helps promote peace and security. During World Trade Week, we renew our commitment to developing and implementing trade policies that create new opportunities and promote global economic growth.

My Administration is pursuing an ambitious trade agenda that is restoring America's leadership in the global trading system. We worked hard for the passage of the Trade Act of 2002, which reinstated Trade Promotion Authority after an 8-year lapse. Trade Promotion Authority re-established the ability of the United States to credibly negotiate comprehensive trade agreements by ensuring that agreements will be approved or rejected, by the Congress, but not amended. This gives other countries renewed confidence in their trade negotiations with the United States.

To extend the benefits of trade and to improve the lives of people in our Nation and around the world, my Administration continues to pursue global, regional, and bilateral trade agreements. Through the Doha Development Agenda negotiations at the World Trade Organization, the United States is seeking to strengthen the multilateral trading system, increase market access opportunities, and promote global development. Regionally, we are working to build on the suc-

cess of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the Free Trade Area of the Americas, which will expand free trade benefits throughout the Western Hemisphere. We are also encouraging the free flow of trade and investment in the Pacific among our partners in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. In addition, we are negotiating a free trade agreement with five Central American democracies and will soon begin free trade agreement negotiations with the Southern African Customs Union to help spur economic growth in these two regions. Bilaterally, I recently signed a historic free trade agreement with Singapore—the first of its kind between the United States and an Asian/Pacific country, and we are finalizing a similar agreement with Chile. Free trade agreement negotiations are also underway with Australia and Morocco.

In America, trade is also critical to maintaining our economic competitiveness in the global market. It has been estimated that one in eleven American jobs—over 12 million—are supported by exports of goods and services. In the 1990s, exports accounted for about one-quarter of our economic growth. Our Nation's two major trade agreements during this time, NAFTA and the Uruguay Round, provided consumers with a greater choice of goods at better prices, while raising living standards for a typical American family of four by up to \$2,000 a year.

My Administration is also providing assistance to help trade-impacted workers adapt to the challenge of international competition. The Trade Adjustment Assistance program helps trade-impacted workers gain or enhance job-related skills and find new jobs. The program provides eligible workers with up to 2 years of training, income support during training, job search assistance, and relocation allowances.

World trade allows all nations to share in the great economic, social, and political progress of our age and provides a foundation for a more peaceful and stable world. This week, we recognize the importance of free trade in promoting prosperity and freedom in the United States and around the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 18 through May 24, 2003, as World Trade Week. I encourage all Americans to observe this week with events, trade shows, and educational programs that celebrate the benefits of trade to our Nation and the global economy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 20, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 21. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

May 17, 2003

Good morning. May 17th is Armed Forces Day, when America honors the men and women who serve in every branch of the service. Here in the Oval Office, I'm joined by some distinguished Americans, eight members of the military who fought bravely during the battle of Iraq. All of them were wounded in battle and are recovering from their injuries. All of them have earned the respect and the gratitude of our Nation.

Americans are proud of every man and woman who has faced the risks of war in the cause of freedom. Many still face dangerous duty in Iraq and Afghanistan as they provide order and stability in liberated countries. Many are fighting on other fronts in the war against terror, and some brave Americans

have given their lives to protect our country and to keep the peace. Our whole Nation honors their memory, and our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones they left behind.

The world has seen the tremendous capabilities of the United States military. With fine allies at their side, American soldiers and sailors, airmen, and marines used advanced technology to gain historic victories in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unmanned Predator aircraft carried out bombing missions deep behind enemy lines, keeping more of our pilots out of harm's way. Satellites high above the Earth, at any time of day or night, provided detailed images of individual targets and whole battlefields. At least two-thirds of the bombs used by coalition forces in Iraq were precision-guided by lasers or global positioning satellites, compared with just 13 percent of the bombs we used in the 1991 Gulf war.

For all the contributions of technology, however, the battles of Iraq and Afghanistan were won by the skill and courage of well-trained, highly motivated men and women. In the recent fighting, marines and soldiers charged to Baghdad across 350 miles of hostile ground in one of the swiftest advances of heavy arms in history. Pilots flew through blinding sandstorms; soldiers and marines ran into the face of gunfire, at times ignoring their own injuries to save wounded comrades. Special Operations forces conducted daring raids to seize airfields and missile launch sites. Every branch of the service worked in united purpose and displayed the highest standards of professionalism and honor.

With the liberation of Iraq and Afghanistan, we have removed allies of Al Qaida, cut off sources of terrorist funding, and made certain that no terrorist network will gain weapons of mass destruction from Saddam Hussein's regime.

These two battles were important victories in the larger war on terror. Yet the terrorist attacks this week in Saudi Arabia, which killed innocent civilians from more than half a dozen countries, including our own, provide a stark reminder that the war on terror continues.

The enemies of freedom are not idle, and neither are we. Our Government is taking unprecedented measures to defend the homeland. And from Pakistan to the Philippines to the Horn of Africa, we are hunting down Al Qaida killers. So far, nearly one-half of Al Qaida's senior operatives have been captured or killed. And we will remain on the hunt until they are all brought to justice.

This Nation accepts the responsibilities of keeping the peace. And the best way to keep the peace is to make sure that our military remains second to none. On this Armed Forces Day, we are grateful to all who serve and sacrifice as members of the United States Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Marines.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:55 p.m. on May 16 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 17. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 16 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Terrorist Bombings in Casablanca, Morocco

May 17, 2003

I strongly condemn the terrorist bombings in Casablanca, Morocco, that have taken many innocent lives. On behalf of the American people, I extend condolences to the families of the victims and our hopes for a quick recovery to those injured.

These acts of murder show, once again, that terrorism respects no boundaries nor borders. Casablanca is a city well-known for its tolerance and its diverse range of religious and ethnic communities.

These acts demonstrate that the war against terror goes on. Morocco is a close friend of the United States, and we offer assistance to the Government of Morocco to help track down and bring to justice those responsible.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines

May 19, 2003

President Bush. Madam President, Attorney Arroyo, members of the Philippine delegation, Members of Congress, and distinguished guests: On behalf of the American people, Laura and I welcome you to the United States.

This is the first state visit by the leader of an Asian country during my administration. You honor the American people with your visit, because our two nations share special ties of history and friendship and family. And we share a commitment to the defense of democracy and the advance of freedom.

Just over a century ago, Americans and Filipinos worked side by side to liberate the Philippines. Nearly half a century later, in a World War, our soldiers fought and died together in places like Bataan and Corregidor. And on this foundation of common sacrifice, America and the Philippines built an alliance that remains strong, an alliance that is essential to the peace of the Pacific.

In this new century, both our nations are threatened by terrorism, and we are determined to fight that threat until it is defeated. Our diplomats and law enforcement and intelligence officers are working arm-in-arm to disrupt terror plots, to cut off terrorist financing, and to bring the terrorists to justice.

President Arroyo has welcomed American troops to train and advise their Philippine counterparts in Philippine-led antiterror operations. And she has been a leader in building broader cooperation against terror throughout the Asian Pacific region.

Madam President, for all you have done to make our world safer, America thanks you.

Last week's terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia that killed innocent civilians from the United States, the Philippines, and many other nations remind us that the war on terror continues. The world's free nations have the courage and the determination to fight this war, and together we will defeat the forces of global terror.

President Arroyo also recognizes the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction. And she spoke with strength and conviction of the

need to disarm the Iraqi dictator and to liberate the Iraqi people. Now the Philippines is helping Iraq take its place among free nations by sending military police and medical personnel. The President and I both recognize that a free and secure Iraq is good for the Philippines, is good for America, and is good for the world.

We share great goals in the world. We are committed to opening markets in Asia and around the world to bring more people into an expanding circle of development and prosperity. And we are committed to adding the moral and material resources of our countries to the global fight against poverty and hunger and disease.

Partnership between our nations is sustained by the friendship between our peoples. More than 2 million Americans trace their ancestry back to the Philippines, and they enrich our national life. Many Filipino Americans serve in our military, and I'm proud to recognize one of them today. Army Lieutenant General Edward Soriano is one of the highest ranking Filipino Americans in the history of America's military. He brings pride to both our countries, and we honor his service in the cause of freedom.

The Philippines was the first democracy in Asia and has a proud tradition of democratic values, love of family, and faith in God. President Arroyo, you are carrying this tradition forward, and I'm proud to call you friend. Today the First Lady and I are honored to welcome you and Attorney Arroyo to America and to the White House. *Mabuhay!*

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:11 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, where President Macapagal-Arroyo was accorded a formal welcome with full military honors. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Jose Miguel Arroyo, husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With President Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines

May 19, 2003

President Bush. Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Welcome. We'll have some opening statements. The President and I will answer some questions, two apiece per side. We'll alternate.

It is my honor to welcome President Arroyo back to the White House. We took office on the same day over 2 years ago, and we have worked closely ever since. President Arroyo is a friend of America and a friend of freedom. I appreciate her strength. I appreciate her courage. And I appreciate you being here today, Madam President.

The relationship between the Philippines and the United States is stronger today than at any time in our recent history. Our alliance helps ensure the security of both our countries. This is a vital alliance. And I was pleased to inform President Arroyo that the United States plans to designate the Philippines as a major non-NATO ally. This step will allow our countries to work together on military research and development and give the Philippines greater access to American defense equipment and supplies.

The President and I also discussed developments in Iraq. I appreciate her strong support for the disarmament and liberation of that country. I'm also grateful that the Philippine Government plans to commit military police and medical personnel to assist in the reconstruction of Iraq.

The Philippines and the United States are strong allies in the war on terror. The murder of citizens from both our countries last week in Saudi Arabia reminds us that this war is far from over. The Philippine Government is strongly committed to defeating terrorists operating in its own part of the world, such as the Abu Sayyaf group.

The United States is committed to helping when asked. President Arroyo and I reviewed last year's highly successful deployment of U.S. troops to the southern Philippines, and we agreed to a similar deployment in the

near term, in which U.S. forces would support Philippine-led antiterror operations.

The President and I also reviewed the developments with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, MLIF. That group must abandon the path of violence. If it does so and addresses its grievances through peaceful negotiations, then the United States will provide diplomatic and financial support to a renewed peace process.

My country welcomes President Arroyo's commitment to improve the capacity of the Philippine Armed Forces, and we are prepared to help. We have agreed to launch a comprehensive review of Philippine security requirements and how the United States can best support Philippine military modernization and reform. In addition, we are prepared to help Philippine forces address their most pressing needs, such as mobility, equipment, and spare parts.

Our countries have a strong economic relationship, and America supports President Arroyo's program of economic reform. We agreed to launch an initiative to make it easier and less costly for Filipino workers in America to send remittances back to the Philippines. I also informed President Arroyo that the United States will be extending new benefits to World War II veterans from the Philippines who fought side by side with American forces to defend freedom.

Finally, I'm honored to accept President Arroyo's generous invitation to visit the Philippines this fall, when I intend to travel to Southeast Asia for the APEC leaders meeting. In the meantime, to keep our relationship moving forward, we'll be sending other senior officers to Manila, starting with our Energy Secretary, Spence Abraham.

The Philippines and America are old friends who are tackling a lot of new challenges. Our relationship is strong; our relationship is growing stronger.

Madam President.

President Macapagal-Arroyo. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you once again for inviting me on this state visit. As I said earlier, this shows how warm is the relationship within our two countries. We've become closer because of the war on terror, but our closeness is certainly rooted in our deep and long shared history.

We became closer with the war on terror because the Philippines is one of the first countries to join this war on terror. And the reason why we did it is that we in the Philippines know what it is to suffer from the hands of terrorism. We know the pain of terrorism. And we are with you in your leadership against terrorism, wherever it may be found. There may be others who might feel tainted or hostile about U.S. leadership in the war against terrorism. We believe that the U.S. leadership and engagement with the U.S. makes the world a safer place for all of us to live in.

But this trip is not just about terrorism, it's about fighting poverty. Poverty and terrorism are twin evils that we must fight. For the Philippines, we consider the U.S. a strategic partner not only in security matters but also in the economy, in the fight against poverty. I appreciate the support President Bush has announced with regard to our security assistance and also with regard to our economic assistance and economic cooperation with each other.

And in other meetings that we will be having with American officials, with multilateral agencies that are based in Washington, DC, and with the U.S. private sector, there will be other developments related to this visit that I'm sure will enhance our relationship with each other even more.

There's been a lot of work in preparation for this state visit. I was supposed to come earlier. I was supposed to be here last March.

President Bush. Right.

President Macapagal-Arroyo. And we've been working on what we can have together in this state visit. But because we postponed it and we didn't know the date of the state visit, because we didn't know the timetable for the war, there were many things that America already helped us with in preparation for this state visit, even without a date. So we—I'd like to thank you, President Bush, for what we have been able to achieve before the state visit, what we are achieving in this state visit, and what we will be achieving afterwards, because of the deeper relationship that we have entered into, culminated in this wonderful visit of ours to your country.

President Bush. Madam President, thank you.

We'll start off with Tom [Tom Raum, Associated Press].

War on Terror

Q. For both Presidents, do the recent suicide—the recent terror bombings, including the ones in Morocco and Saudi Arabia, suggest that Al Qaida is regrouping and back in business? And if so, is there a chance that we overestimated the damage that we did to the organization?

President Bush. First of all, I have said this is going to be—always said this is going to be a long war, that—not only a long war, a new kind of war. We're trying to chase down people who hide and move around in the dark corners of the world, and they plot, and they plan, and then they pop up and kill. They don't care about innocent life. And we're making progress. I mean, we are, slowly but surely, dismantling the Al Qaida operational network.

But we've got a lot of work to do, which means we've got to continue to work together to share information, cut off money, share intelligence, and hunt these people down and get them before they get us. And that's why I appreciate President Arroyo's leadership. She's tough when it comes to terror. She fully understands that in the face of terror you've got to be strong, not weak. She knows, like I know, that the only way to deal with these people is to bring them to justice. You can't talk to them. You can't negotiate with them. You must find them, and that's precisely what our alliance is continuing to do.

And so I'm pleased with progress we've made, but I will continue to warn the American people, like I've been doing for a long time, that this is still a dangerous world we live in. Clearly, the attacks in Saudi Arabia mean that we've got to be on alert here at home, that we've got to be diligent, that we've got to understand there's an Al Qaida group still actively plotting to kill.

We're working on the clues out of Morocco to determine whether there's a direct connection between that Al Qaida operation and what happened in Morocco. Time will tell. But the world is dangerous, which means that we've got to continue to renew these

alliances and these friendships to make sure that we make the world more secure.

President Macapagal-Arroyo. Well, there's been great progress in the war on terror. But certainly, it is not yet over. The Al Qaida and its sister terrorist organizations are finding their way not only in Africa, not only in the Middle East but also in Southeast Asia. And as we have seen, therefore, terrorism knows no borders. And that's why, while each country must take greater responsibility for its own economic and political security, it is also important that we enhance our regional and international cooperation in this war against terrorism.

Filipino-U.S. Relations

Q. Just to get direct quotes from both Presidents, I'd like to know exactly how the war against terrorism has affected the U.S.-Philippine relations, and how you intend to nurture this relationship beyond what is military and for a more prolonged and sustained period.

President Macapagal-Arroyo. Well, as I said earlier, it's made the U.S. and the Philippines closer to each other. And for me, because in the beginning of my term, of my tenure, we were fighting a lonely fight against the terrorists in southwestern Philippines, I felt that when we formed the global coalition against terrorism, then we were no longer alone. The world came to know how bad terrorism is, something we have known for a long time. And the world came to help us, because in the international coalition, we started to help one another.

I welcome the support of the world, and I welcome the support of the U.S. in our war against terrorism.

President Bush. Yes, I remember right after September the 11th, President Arroyo called me, and there was no doubt in my mind where she stood. It was more than the condolence call. It was a let's-get-after-them call. And I knew that we had—I had a strong ally and friend when it came to chasing these people down, which is precisely what we have to do. And she knows that, and that's the strategy she's employed.

And so you asked a question about what this war on terror has meant for our relationship. First and foremost, it meant that I've

got a great deal of respect for your President and her courage and her willingness to fight for security of the Philippine people and to defend freedom. And she is a great example of leadership in a part of the world that is a dangerous part of the world.

As President Arroyo mentioned, not only are there, obviously, actions around the Middle East and not only do we have to make sure our own homeland is secure, but Southeast Asia is a dangerous part of the world too. And the Philippines have witnessed this danger firsthand, and we'll continue to work, at her request, along the guidelines that are necessary in your Constitution, to work for freedom and security.

Tom—I mean Holland, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters]. Excuse me.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Are you going to put the Middle East roadmap on hold in the wake of the latest bombings? Do you still have confidence in Prime Minister Abbas—

President Bush. Yes, I've got confidence we can move the peace process forward. But the bombings, the recent bombings—I mean, Prime Minister Sharon is fixing to come over here, and of course, there are terrorists who want to disrupt the visit by bombing and killing. It's clear there are people there that still cannot stand the thought of peace. And therefore, it reminds—it gives me a chance to remind people in the region, if you're interested in moving the peace process, join us in fighting terror.

And I still believe that we need to—not only believe, I will move the process forward. But it is clear that the process is not going to be smooth so long as terrorists kill. And it's a stark reminder that there are killers who can't stand the thought of peace. And it's sad, and it's pathetic. But—and therefore, we must all work together—and I say “we,” those of us who care for peace. People in the Palestinian Authority who care for peace must work with us to fight off terror. People in Israel who care for peace will work with us to fight terror. The countries in the region that long for a peace process must understand that what's more important than process is results, and that we've got to work together to cut off the funding and the support

and activity of the terrorist killers who can't stand peace. Europe must work with us to do everything we can to discourage the terrorist activities that derail a process toward peace.

No, the roadmap still stands. The vision of two states existing side by side in peace is a real vision and one that I will work toward. But we've got a lot of work to do to convince all of us who care about peace to step up and fight off terror, to cut off the money and to find these people and bring them to justice.

No, we're still on the road to peace. It's just going to be a bumpy road. And I'm not going to get off the road until we achieve the vision.

President Macapagal-Arroyo. Well, the road to peace is really very difficult, but it's very important that we cooperate. And in Southeast Asia, I would like to say that, in addition, that if we are going to fight terrorism successfully and achieve peace, what is important is that we work on it together and we have a comprehensive approach, because terrorism will spread like a contagion. It will spread like SARS if we don't address the poverty that represents the breeding grounds for terrorism.

In the Philippines, terrorism thrives and gets its recruits, not coincidentally, in the provinces that are the poorest, in the region that is the poorest in our country. That is why I appreciate the support of President Bush not only for the security assistance in the war against terrorism but also in the efforts to fight poverty and the socioeconomic ills that plague southern Philippines especially.

That is our roadmap to peace. Every region has its specific roadmap to peace. We have some roadmaps in common; we have some that are specific to us. But for our region, it is a comprehensive approach. And I appreciate President Bush for understanding the comprehensive approach and helping us through it.

President Bush. Final question. Do you care to call on somebody, Madam President?

Q. I was about to ask about the economic side of it—

President Macapagal-Arroyo. Yes.

Filipino-U.S. Relations

Q. —but both of you have already spelled it out in details. Anyway, Mr. President Bush mentioned, and please comment on this, Mrs. President, about the non-NATO—designate the Philippines as a non-NATO status—

President Bush. Right.

Q. —and about the MILF—your offer of assistance in the MILF problem, because we have poverty problem there now.

President Bush. Well, my offer of assistance, it depends upon the MILF choosing peace as a peaceful reconciliation of issues. If they continue to want to use terror and force, we will be involved to the extent that the President invites us to be involved, within the Constitution of the Philippine Government.

And the other part of the question?

Q. Non-NATO status.

President Bush. Non-NATO status, yes. That puts the Philippines right up there with Australia, Egypt, Israel. These are major non-NATO allies, which means it will be easier for us to answer requests on military equipment, to provide parts and equipment to make sure that the defense capabilities of the Philippine military are modern and the choppers fly, choppers are maintained, choppers move, when the President orders up a strike, it happens quickly. All this does is facilitate the capacity to interact with each other on a better basis, on a priority basis.

Secondly, the other thing I talked about was a comprehensive review of—and that just means our military is going to be involved with your military, the Philippine military, in such a way as to determine needs and assess whether or not we've got the capacity to help meet those needs.

Q. And the poverty problem?

President Bush. And the poverty problem—listen, this Nation is committed to dealing with poverty. First, let me make it very clear, poor people aren't necessarily killers. Just because you happen to be not rich doesn't mean you're willing to kill. And so it's important to understand—people are susceptible to the recruitment by these extremists, but I refuse to put a—put killers into a demographic category based upon income. After all, a lot of the top Al Qaida people

were comfortable middle-class citizens. And so one of the things you've got to do is to make sure we distinguish between hate and poverty.

Secondly, trade is an important aspect of helping to create the conditions necessary for people to rise out of poverty. And we talked about our trade relationship. An aspect of poverty is food, and we talked about our Agricultural Departments working together for the Food for Peace program and the interchange along that. In other words, all up and down—energy we talked about—all up and down the different aspects of our society, we had meaningful discussions. Not only in the Cabinet Room but prior to this and after this day, our Secretaries, respective Secretaries, will continue to interface to create the conditions necessary for prosperity to reign.

The other thing that's important is the Philippine Government must also assume their responsibilities. And I was very impressed by the discussions on tax reform. The President put out a bold initiative. I was most pleased that the Speaker and the head of the Senate were here in Washington, DC, and they were very receptive, it seemed like to me, to some of the tax proposals that the President laid out, to make sure that the budget of the Philippine Government is more efficient in collecting the revenues due to the Government. And so, in other words, it's a comprehensive approach, and it's one we spent a lot of time discussing.

President Macapagal-Arroyo. With regard to poverty, I don't see poverty only as a means to fight terrorism. Fighting poverty is an end in itself. So I agree with President Bush. It's not poverty that causes terrorism. Terrorism breeds on poverty, and poverty breeds on terrorism. They reinforce each other, and that's why we must fight them together.

And I came to Washington not just about terrorism but fighting poverty for its own—for the sake of the fight. And I believe that many of the things that we have worked on together are things that fight poverty and, incidentally, fight terrorism. But even if there were no terrorism, they certainly fight poverty and are—do the better for our country.

For instance, the GSP privileges that we've been able to enjoy. Since my last visit with

President Bush, we've been able to have—we've been able to enjoy about a billion dollars a year, and again, reinforced now, in GSP privileges. And if we get to include things like carrageenan in the GSP list, as we are negotiating now, that's going to give a lot of work to all those people in the coastal areas of Mindanao, especially the areas which I said are the poorest provinces in our country.

And then another example of getting together in the fight against poverty is working also on investments. And one of the things that we talked about is—and one of the things that we'll be getting together on would be more insurance, OPIC insurance for U.S. investments in the Philippines. So that's going to create more jobs.

And President Bush talked about the remittances of our OFWs. I hope that in 3 to 6 months a study can be done and our OFWs can be—our overseas Filipinos can begin to send the remittances with these reduced costs. And based on the Mexican experience, the costs can go down by as much as \$300 million a year. And that's going to provide a lot of income to the Filipinos back home, and the commensurate jobs that they can provide.

So all of these things are important in themselves. And incidentally, they also help us to fight poverty—poverty and terrorism at the same time.

President Bush. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:45 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Jose de Venecia, Jr., Speaker of the Philippines House of Representatives; and Franklin M. Drilon, President, Senate of the Philippines. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines

May 19, 2003

President George W. Bush today welcomed President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the White House on the occasion of her State visit to Washington. The two leaders dis-

cussed the full range of global and bilateral issues and reaffirmed the depth and breadth of ties between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines. The Presidents agreed that relations are deeper and warmer today than at any time in recent history and noted that those ties are rooted in shared history, shared values, and a common interest in global peace and prosperity. President Bush and President Macapagal-Arroyo paid tribute to a revitalized and maturing bilateral alliance and pledged to strengthen the partnership further in the years ahead.

The two leaders noted with satisfaction that the U.S.-Philippine alliance continues to play a vital role in ensuring mutual security, as it has since the signing of the U.S.-Philippine Mutual Defense Treaty over 50 years ago. In recognition of this proud history and continued partnership, the President announced his intention to designate the Philippines as a Major Non NATO Ally (MNNA). This step will allow the two countries to work together on military research and development and give the Philippines greater access to American defense equipment and supplies. President Bush thanked President Macapagal-Arroyo for her strong and unequivocal support in the Iraq campaign and expressed appreciation for the Philippine government's plans to deploy peacekeeping and medical personnel to assist in Iraq's reconstruction. The two Presidents reaffirmed their shared commitment to a free Iraq at peace with its neighbors. The two leaders also agreed that North Korea's nuclear weapons program is unacceptable and stressed that North Korea's relations with the Asia-Pacific region hinge on the verifiable and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons capability.

President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed the view that the world had changed on September 11, 2001 and that conflict in Iraq had been another milestone in the war on terror. She noted that across Asia, there is a growing capability and readiness to cooperate on maintaining peace and stability in this new environment, and emphasized that the United States' leadership and strategic presence in the region are essential for the continuation of this positive trend. President

Bush welcomed this perspective and reiterated that Asia remains a major focus of U.S. foreign policy.

President Bush praised President Macapagal-Arroyo's leadership and strength in confronting terrorism in the Philippines and beyond and reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to support Philippine efforts to defeat terror in all its forms. The two leaders reviewed recent progress in the war on terror but agreed that this effort is far from over, as demonstrated by the May 12 terrorist attack in Riyadh, in which both American and Philippine citizens were killed and wounded. President Arroyo welcomed the additional counterterrorism security assistance for the Philippines in the fiscal year 2003 supplemental budget. President Bush emphasized that the United States would continue to provide significant security assistance, training, equipment, and law enforcement assistance to support the Philippines in the war on terror, as appropriate.

Recalling last year's highly successful deployment of U.S. troops to the southern Philippines, the two leaders noted with satisfaction that the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) had been driven substantially from the island of Basilan, enabling the restoration of peace and order. The two Presidents reaffirmed their commitment to destroy the ASG once and for all. Toward that end, President Bush and President Macapagal-Arroyo agreed to hold another joint military activity in the near term, in which the United States will provide support to ongoing Armed Forces of the Philippines-led operations against the ASG.

The two leaders agreed on the need for a comprehensive approach to defeating terrorism in Southeast Asia, recognizing that terrorism knows no borders. The Presidents agreed on the need for efforts to alleviate poverty and other socio-economic grievances which can create conditions that can be exploited by terrorists. President Arroyo expressed appreciation for increased U.S. economic and development assistance to the southern Philippines, which reinforces the Philippine Government's own efforts to heal divisions in Philippine society. To advance this agenda, President Bush informed President Macapagal-Arroyo that the United

States will train and equip a Philippine engineering unit capable of performing civic action and humanitarian projects in conflict zones.

President Bush condemned recent terrorist acts in the southern Philippines. President Arroyo appreciated the economic assistance recently allocated by the United States Congress to support peace in Mindanao. President Bush stated that the United States stands ready to provide diplomatic and financial support to a renewed peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), provided that the MILF renounced terror.

The two Presidents agreed that the U.S.-Philippine security partnership has never been healthier and emphasized the importance of U.S. support for continuing efforts to improve the capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Toward that end, the two Presidents agreed to launch a comprehensive review of Philippine security needs and how best the United States can support President Macapagal-Arroyo's plans to modernize and reform the AFP. President Bush committed to help address the AFP's most pressing needs, particularly in the area of mobility, by providing helicopters and spare parts. President Macapagal-Arroyo thanked President Bush for his promise of assistance and pledged her government's full support for, and participation in, the more comprehensive review.

The two Presidents expressed great pride in the robust economic and trade ties that bind the United States and the Philippines, as evidenced by annual bilateral trade exceeding \$18 billion and cumulative direct private investment of \$3.5 billion. The leaders reviewed progress in implementing President Bush's Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative, which is aimed at generating sustained economic growth in Southeast Asia. They welcomed the revival of the bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and agreed to resolve issues identified in its Trade and Investment Council consultations. President Arroyo welcomed the U.S. decision to provide tariff-free Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits to specific products requested by the Philippines and the offer of additional technical and capacity

building assistance on the protection of intellectual property rights.

President Bush commended President Macapagal-Arroyo for her steadfast leadership in pursuing needed economic reforms in the Philippines, noting in particular her “Strong Republic” agenda aimed at rooting out corruption, expanding economic opportunity, and alleviating poverty. President Bush welcomed President Arroyo’s determination to pursue reforms in revenue collection, energy privatization, and intellectual property rights protection. They further noted their shared hope that current and continuing reforms will strengthen the Philippines’ eligibility for participation in the President’s Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) in the future.

The two Presidents highlighted the remarkable contributions of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans to American economic life. Recognizing the important role that the over 7 million overseas Filipino workers play in the Philippine and global economies, President Bush announced that the United States is launching a project to facilitate the flow of remittances from Filipino workers around the world back to the Philippines. The two leaders agreed that this project would improve the lives of millions of Filipinos by lowering the costs of remittance transactions and making it easier for funds to flow to the Philippines from the United States and around the world.

The two Presidents reviewed with pride the contributions made by Philippine World War II veterans who gave so much in defense of freedom. President Bush announced his intention to support legislation extending new benefits for Commonwealth Army veterans and guerrillas who lawfully reside in the United States. He also announced continuing efforts to improve medical care for Filipino veterans in the Philippines by providing medical equipment to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City in the 2004 fiscal year.

Presidents Bush and Macapagal-Arroyo looked forward to the May 20 signing by Secretaries Powell and Ople of agreements on assistance for Mindanao, law enforcement cooperation, and science and technology co-

operation, noting that cooperation in these three areas is a priority for both countries.

President Bush was pleased to accept President Macapagal-Arroyo’s invitation to pay a reciprocal visit to the Philippines when he travels to Southeast Asia for APEC in 2003. The two leaders agreed that to maintain momentum in the bilateral relationship, other senior U.S. officials will travel to Manila in the coming months, beginning soon with Secretary of Energy Abraham and continuing thereafter with senior officials from the Department of Treasury and the Agency for International Development (AID).

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines

May 19, 2003

Welcome. Madam President, Attorney Arroyo, it is a high honor for Laura and me to welcome you and host you at the White House. Madam President, I know you attended college here in Washington, so perhaps I ought to say welcome back or, as they say at Georgetown, *Hoya Saxa*. [Laughter]

With your visit, the Philippines and the United States affirm our strong friendship, our common commitment to fighting terror, and our shared determination to promote freedom.

Our nations are natural partners. We are connected by an ocean, united by a shared history, and sustained by the bonds of family and culture. More than 2 million Americans have family ties to the Philippines. And some are with us tonight, and you’re welcome. Filipino Americans strengthen America’s culture, our economy, and our Government. And we are privileged that they call this country their home.

The United States and the Philippines are also joined by common values, especially the value of human freedom. And when freedom comes under attack, our countries respond.

Madam President, you’ve been a fierce fighter of terrorism in your own country. You’ve earned the respect of the American people for your resolve. And after September

the 11th, you were one of the first leaders to contact me and express your strong support for the war against terror, and you have not wavered.

The President was also a strong and persuasive voice on the need to disarm Saddam Hussein and to liberate the Iraqi people.

Madam President, for your leadership and for your friendship, I thank you.

Seventeen years ago, the Filipino people restored their nation's democratic tradition and inspired lovers of freedom across the globe. In the years since, the Philippines has emerged as a stronger and more confident nation. The Philippines is building its prosperity on the foundation of markets and building its future on a foundation of democracy. These commitments are opening new opportunities for the Filipino people and setting a hopeful example for other nations traveling the road to freedom.

President Arroyo is playing a large role in her nation's success. Her bold and determined leadership has opened a new chapter in the friendship between our countries and is responsible for revitalizing our strong alliance.

In his last poem, Jose Rizal, one of the founders of the Filipino independence, referred to his native land as the "Pearl of the Orient Seas." More than a century later, this "pearl" is admired the world over for its beauty, its progress, and its wonderful people.

Madam President, it will be my pleasure to visit the Philippines later this year, with you as my host. And Laura and I and the American people are honored to have you and your husband as our guests here tonight. Would you please join me in a toast to the enduring friendship between the Philippines and the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:33 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jose Miguel Arroyo, husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on Trade and
Investment Policy for Sub-Saharan
Africa and Implementation of the
African Growth and Opportunity Act
May 19, 2003**

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration entitled "2003 Comprehensive Report on U.S. Trade and Investment Policy for Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act."

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 19, 2003.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 20.

**Remarks on the Healthy Forests
Initiative
May 20, 2003**

Thanks for coming, and good morning. I welcome you all to the White House, and I'm pleased all of you could be here to support the preservation of a great American treasure, our forests.

Nine months ago, I stood at the scene of Squires Peak fire in Oregon. On one side of a dirt road, where small trees and underbrush had been removed before the fire rolled through, the forest was green and alive. On the other side of the road, where a similar thinning project had been stalled by lawsuits, the landscape was charred, and the trees looked like matchsticks. The contrast between these two sides of the forest was startling, and it was tragic.

Active forest management could have saved both areas. It could have saved millions more acres across America from the devastation of severe forest fires and insect damage. Yet, for too many years, bureaucratic tangles and bad forest policy have prevented foresters from keeping our woodlands healthy and safe. The cost to America has been high, in the loss of lives and property and in the destruction of woodlands and wildlife.

No region in America is immune to this problem. Wildfires, diseases, and insect infestations threaten the habitat of animals and diminish the quality of our water. And problems on public lands hurt private lands as well. After all, the problems can leap across boundary lines to destroy homes and farms and ranches and, in some cases, towns.

The Healthy Forests Initiative that I announced last summer is making American woodlands more safe, acre by acre. As we approach the start of fire season, we have a responsibility to do even more to protect our forests, and we will meet that responsibility. People who understand the responsibility we assume when we take office are on the stage with me today, namely Secretary Gale Norton and Secretary Ann Veneman. And I want to thank them for their leadership. And I want to thank you for your work.

As well, I appreciate Jim Connaughton, who's the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. That means he works in the White House and helps coordinate policy out of the White House. Jimmy is doing a fine job.

On stage with me today is Andrea Gilham. She's the fire management officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Who she represents are all the people on the frontline, the yellow shirts. She represents the people who put their lives at risk, sometimes because of bad forest policy. She represents the folks who I got to meet after touring some of the fire areas, who had worked themselves into complete exhaustion because they were serving their neighbors, because they were risking life to protect others. She represents the best of America, and I want to thank you all for coming here today.

I also want to thank Rex Mann, who's the area commander for the U.S. Forest Service. Rex is a well-organized fellow. He's a smart man. He understands sensible policy. After all, he's made a career of trying to make sure sensible policy came into being to prevent devastation of our forests. I met Rex at the site of a tragic fire. I saw how well-organized he was, and I saw the fact that he commanded a group of great professionals, and those would be the U.S. Forest Service professionals. And so, Rex, thank you for coming. And I want to thank all the people who

work for the U.S. Forest Service across our country.

We're lucky to have some Governors, particularly out West, who understand practical, sensible policy, people that are working hard to help the world realize that not all the smarts exist in Washington, DC, that there's plenty capable people outside of the Nation's Capital. And one such Governor is with us, and that's Judy Martz, who's the chairperson of the Western Governors' Association, the Governor of Montana. Thank you, Judy, for coming.

Plus, we've got some good people in the Congress who care about this issue, people who work in a bipartisan fashion to get the bill through. We've got Members of the United States Senate who are here, strong leaders on this issue, starting with Senator Pete Domenici from the State of New Mexico, Gordon Smith from the State of Oregon, Larry Craig from the State of Idaho, and the birthday boy, Senator Crapo—where are you? Congratulations, Mike, happy birthday.

I want to thank the Members of the House. The House is going to take this bill up today, as I understand. I want to thank you all for working on this: Pombo, Goodlatte, McInnis; Walden of Oregon; Sherry Boehlert of New York has been a stalwart in bringing factions together on the floor of the House, and I want to thank you for that, Sherry, for your leadership; Gilchrest of Maryland, Taylor of North Carolina, Renzi of Arizona, and Mike Ross of Arkansas, thank you all for coming. I'm proud you all are here.

Last year, 23 firefighters died while battling disastrous forest fires. Our professional firefighters take risk. We need to mitigate those risks by sound policy. We need to be smart about how we manage our forests. Those fires last year scorched 7 million acres, more than double the average of the last 10 years. Major blazes burned in 15 States across our country, destroyed 815 homes. It cost the taxpayers about \$1.6 billion of fire suppression. The economic impact of these wildfires and of mismanaged forests is widespread. Hard-working Americans and the communities that count on healthy forests are suffering.

Since 1989, five Western States, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and California, have lost 47,000 timber jobs. Four hundred mills have closed in those States. At present, this year's fire outlook seems less severe, and that's good news for the men and women who wear the yellow. Yet, the danger persists, and many of our forests are facing a higher than normal risk of costly and catastrophic fires. The communities from Georgia to California that are at significant risk for those fires need our help. And today we pledge it; we pledge our help.

Wildfires in unnaturally overgrown forest burn hotter and spread faster than normal fires. And their effects on the environment can be devastating. The fires sterilize soils and trigger soil erosion. They decimate our forests, killing even giant sequoias that have survived centuries of smaller fires. They destroy the habitats of endangered species. Last year, the fire in Hayman, Colorado, damaged the habitat of several species, for example, including the Mexican spotted owl.

One reason for these deadly fires is found in decades of well-intentioned but misguided forest policy which has allowed dangerous undergrowth to build up on the forest floor. During seasonal droughts, these small trees and underbrush act as ladders for fires to reach to the tops of our oldest and tallest trees. They make forests vulnerable to insect infestation and disease.

Sound science shows that we can prevent such fires by managing forests with controlled fire, cleaning out the underbrush, and thinning the areas that are vulnerable to intense fires and insect attacks. This is common sense, and it is the consensus of scientists, wildlife biologists, forestry professionals, and firefighters, the very people who have dedicated their lives to keeping our forests healthy and our community safe.

This is policy that came from the grass-roots to the White House. We've asked experts on how best to deal with the problem. See, we see a problem, and we want to deal with it for the good of the country.

Andrea Gilham is a fire management officer and a member of the Blackfeet Tribe in Browning, Montana. She has been fighting fires since she was 19 years old, 2 years ago. [Laughter] She has a degree in forest re-

source management. She's the kind of person that Congress needs to listen to. She knows the cost of doing too little to prevent extreme wildfires. In 1990, she was working the frontlines of the Dude fire in Arizona's Tonto National Forest on the day six firefighters died. Andrea says, "Everybody knows what we need to do. The longer we wait, the more likelihood a catastrophic wildfire is going to happen. Lives and property are at risk."

Everybody who's in the field knows what we need to do. Everybody whose job it is to protect America and the communities from wildfires know what we need to do. The Forest—many in the Forest Service know what we need to do. Enough on the House floor, I hope, know what we need to do. We've just got to make sure that enough Senators know what we need to do to propose and get through the Healthy Forests Initiative.

And the initiative I've laid out is beginning to make sense. We've begun to cut through the bureaucratic redtape, and there's a lot of redtape here, as the people on the front-line can tell you. Since 2000, the Federal Government has more than doubled the amount of money budgeted for firefighting—and that is good—for firefighting and fire prevention. For '04, we budgeted an 8-percent increase. And I want to thank the Members of the Congress and the Senate who are working with us on that project, to make sure we've got enough money to let these good folks do what they're supposed to do, on behalf of communities all across the country.

This year, we've reduced the undergrowth that fuels fires on more than 1.3 million acres of forest and rangelands. That was nearly twice as many as were treated in the year 2001. We're moving at a record pace. We've still got a long way to go. There's a lot more work to do. One-hundred-and-ninety-five million acres are vulnerable to devastating forest fires. For the sake of our forests and for the sake the communities, we've got to act quickly, and that's why we've gathered here.

I appreciate the Congress' hard work on the "Healthy Forests Restoration Act." I appreciate the House moving the bill today. I urge Congress to get it done, to get it to my desk as quickly as possible. The bipartisan

bill—and I emphasize “bipartisan bill”—builds on the success of the Healthy Forests Initiative. It sets the goal of thinning trees and cleaning out underbrush and restoring the health to 20 million acres. I hope Congress says, when we’re successful in the 20 million, we need to get after the 175 million more acres.

This bill sets priorities for forest management by authorizing work in the areas that are closest to rural communities and work where there’s the greatest risk for environmental damage. It’s a practical piece of legislation. It’s good, commonsense environmental policy, is what we’re talking about.

The “Healthy Forests Restoration Act” helps the people closest to the problem by allowing local citizens to help plan projects for nonprofit, for profit, and for stewardship groups. And these citizens can benefit economically from selling the smaller trees that are cleared out from the forests.

Local citizens can be great allies in the effort to protect our forests. Ron Bell is with us today—where are you, Ron? There he is. Hi, Ron—thought you would have gotten a better seat. [*Laughter*] He spent 22 years in the Army before coming home to manage his family cattle and tree farm near Batesville, Arkansas. About 6 years ago, when Ron noticed the health of the forest in his area deteriorating from insect infestation, he decided to do something about it. Ron, his wife, and their two sons spent an entire winter cleaning out the diseased and lower-quality trees that were crowding out the taller trees in his 40-acre forest.

When he was finished, the forest was healthier. The bugs were gone, and he had made about \$15,000 from the sale of the undergrowth that he cleared away. Today he belongs to a group of nearly 200 landowners in central Arkansas who are working to manage their woodlands and to keep the bugs out. Ron says some of the landowners who live near national forest areas are worried because the Government moves too slowly in treating our own forests. Here’s what he says: “The conditions are preventable with a little bit of management. You don’t just have to throw up your hands. There are times you need to get in there quickly, when the situation is dire.”

And the situation is dire across America. We need to listen to the voices of reasoned people. We need to get the politics out of this, and we need to focus on what’s best for America, is what we need to do. We need to bring people together, for the sake of our forests, for the sake of those who work to see that our forests are healthy, for the sake of those who sacrifice to fight the fires. That’s what we need to do here in Washington, DC. We need less bickering, less politics, and more sound, commonsense policy. And that’s what we’re talking about right here today.

And the reason why that is necessary is because our forests are a treasure, and we are their stewards. We must preserve them. We must protect the people and communities who depend on them. We must fulfill our promise to the next generation—that’s what we must do—and leave behind a world as blessed and as beautiful as the one our parents left us.

Thank you for your interest in this important subject. May God bless your work, and may God continue to bless the United States of America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. in the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Proposed “Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003”

May 20, 2003

Today’s action by the House on the “Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003” is an important step toward implementing the kind of active forest management that is good for both the environment and our economy. It will save lives and the national treasure of our great forests, with their wildlife, trees, waters, habitat, and other natural resources.

I urge the Senate to act quickly on this much needed legislation. As this year’s fire season progresses, we must equip Federal land managers with the tools they need to protect lives and communities, restore forest

health, and safeguard habitat and watersheds.

Radio Remarks to the People of Cuba on Cuban Independence Day

May 20, 2003

Today, Cubans around the world celebrate May 20th, Cuban Independence Day. On behalf of the people of the United States, I send greetings to the Cuban community. My hope is for the Cuban people to soon enjoy the same freedoms and rights that we do. Dictatorships have no place in the Americas. May God bless the Cuban people who are struggling for freedom. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded in Spanish at 9:50 a.m. on May 16 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for later broadcast on Radio Marti. The Spanish language transcript and an English translation were released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 20. This text follows the English translation.

Commencement Address at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut

May 21, 2003

Thank you very much. Thanks for the warm welcome. Admiral Collins and Admiral Olsen, Secretary Ridge, Lieutenant Governor Rell, Mr. President—I'm glad you're here; thank you for coming, sir—Congressman Simmons, the fine professors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, distinguished guests, proud family members, and the graduates, thank you for your welcome, and thank you for the honor of speaking to the newest officers of the United States Coast Guard.

You know, I was born in this State, just down the road. *[Laughter]* I've still got relatives living here. *[Laughter]* And it looks like some of them were up late last night painting Pride Rock. *[Laughter]*

This is a proud day for the Class of 2003. I know you've worked hard to get here. You've persevered through the rigors of Swab Summer. You've faced difficult trials in the classroom, aboard *Eagle*. And now, with silver dollars in your pockets, you're

ready to become officers in our Nation's oldest continuous seagoing service. You have shown each day that you "revere honor" and that you "honor duty." You have made your families, your professors, and your country proud. On behalf of the American people, thank you for choosing a life of service, and congratulations on a great achievement.

I bring with me a small graduation present. Pursuant to the longstanding tradition, I hereby grant amnesty to all cadets on restriction for minor conduct offenses. *[Laughter]* I leave it up to Admiral Olsen to determine the definition of "minor." *[Laughter]*

Coast Guard Academy life is demanding, and it should be because you are entrusted with solemn responsibilities in peace and in war. America counts on the Coast Guard to enforce maritime law, to secure our waterways and ports, to rescue those in distress, and to intercept illegal drugs. In this new century, we will count on you even more. The men and women of this class are the first ever to graduate into the Department of Homeland Security, which is charged with protecting the American people against terrorist attacks. You are bringing a long tradition of duty to this new and urgent tasks. Terrorists who seek to harm our country now face your "Shield of Freedom." Every citizen can be grateful that the Coast Guard stands watch for America.

The Coast Guard is also playing a vital role in America's strategy to confront terror before it comes to our shores. In the Iraqi theater, Coast Guard cutters and patrol boats and buoy tenders and over a thousand of your finest active duty and reserve members protected key ports and oil platforms, detained Iraqi prisoners of war, and helped speed the delivery of relief supplies to the Iraqi people. Many have returned safely to port, and many remain on duty in the Persian Gulf. All have helped to liberate a great people, and all have brought a great credit to the uniform of the United States Coast Guard.

In Iraq, America's military and our allies carried out every mission and exceeded every expectation. Heavy units of armor and infantry moved with speed and agility that kept the enemy in a state of constant surprise and

deadly confusion. Airstrikes and cruise missiles destroyed the power centers and meeting places of the regime, while targets were carefully examined to protect the innocent from harm. Our forces confronted an enemy that rejected every rule of warfare and morality, but our men and women in uniform showed their decency and kept their honor. In a month of battle, American armed services set an example of skill and daring that will stand for all time.

America will not relent in the war against global terror. We will hunt the terrorists in every dark corner of the Earth, and we're making good progress. Nearly one-half of Al Qaida senior operatives have been captured or killed. We will deny the terrorists the sanctuary and bases they need to plan and strike, as we have done in the battle of Afghanistan. We will not permit terror networks or terror states to threaten or blackmail the world with weapons of mass destruction, as we have shown in the battle of Iraq. Our country has been attacked by treachery in our own cities, and that treachery continues in places like Riyadh and Casablanca. We have seen the ruthless intentions of our enemies. And they are seeing our intentions: We will press on until this danger to our country and to the world is ended.

Yet, the national interest of America involves more than eliminating aggressive threats to our safety. We also stand for the values that defeat violence and the hope that overcomes hatred. We find our greatest security in the advance of human freedom. Free societies look to the possibilities of the future, instead of feeding old resentments and bitterness. Free countries build wealth and prosperity for their people in an atmosphere of stability and order, instead of seeking weapons of mass murder and attacking their neighbors. Because America loves peace, America will always work and sacrifice for the expansion of freedom.

The advance of freedom is more than an interest we pursue. It is a calling we follow. Our country was created in the name and cause of freedom. And if the self-evident truths of our founding are true for us, they are true for all. As a people dedicated to civil rights, we are driven to defend the human rights of others. We are the Nation that liber-

ated continents and concentration camps. We are the Nation of the Marshall plan, the Berlin airlift, and the Peace Corps. We are the Nation that ended the oppression of Afghan women, and we are the Nation that closed the torture chambers of Iraq.

America's national ambition is the spread of free markets, free trade, and free societies. These goals are not achieved at the expense of other nations; they are achieved for the benefit of all nations. America seeks to expand not the borders of our country but the realm of liberty.

Our vision is opposed by terrorists and tyrants who attack a world they can never inspire. This vision is also threatened by the faceless enemies of human dignity, plague, starvation, and hopeless poverty. And America is at war with these enemies as well.

The advance of freedom and hope is challenged by the spread of AIDS. Today, on the continent of Africa, nearly 30 million people are afflicted with HIV/AIDS, including 3 million children under the age of 15. The African Continent has lost 7 million agricultural workers. In some countries, almost a third of the teachers are HIV-positive. A 15-year-old boy living in Botswana has an 80-percent chance of dying of AIDS. It is a desperate struggle for any person or any nation to build a better future in the shadow of death.

Yet, this shadow can be lifted. AIDS can be prevented, and AIDS can be treated. Lives can be saved, and others extended by many years. In my State of the Union Address in January, I put forward an Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief directing \$15 billion over the next 5 years to fight AIDS abroad. And we will especially focus our efforts on 14 African and Caribbean nations where HIV/AIDS is heavily concentrated.

I'm pleased that both Houses of Congress have now passed a bill authorizing these funds. I look forward to signing the bill next week. The Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is the largest single upfront commitment in history for an international public health initiative involving a specific disease.

With this dramatic expansion of America's efforts, we will prevent 7 million new HIV infections, treat at least 2 million people with life-extending drugs, and provide humane

care for 10 million HIV-infected individuals and AIDS orphans.

When I travel to Europe next week, I will challenge our allies to make a similar commitment which will save even more lives. I will remind them that the clock is ticking, that every single day 8,000 more people will die from AIDS in Africa. There will be 14,000 more infections. I will urge our European partners and Japan and Canada to join a great mission of rescue and to match their good intentions with real resources.

The advance of freedom and hope in the world is also challenged by an ancient enemy, famine. Our world produces more than enough food to feed its 6 billion people. Yet tens of millions are at risk of starvation, and millions more lack water fit for drinking. This crisis also is concentrated in Africa. We have the ability to confront this suffering, and we accept the duty as old as the Scriptures to comfort the afflicted and to feed the hungry.

America is already the largest provider in the world of food relief, giving more than \$1.4 billion in global emergency food aid and one-half of all contributions to the World Food Program. And we are determined to do more. I've committed to a nearly \$1 billion initiative to provide clean drinking water to 50 million people in the developing world. I've also asked Congress to provide \$200 million for a new famine fund, which will give us the flexibility to act quickly when the first signs of famine appear. I call on other nations to follow our lead by establishing their own emergency funds. By saving time in responding to crisis, we will save lives.

We can also greatly reduce the long-term problem of hunger in Africa by applying the latest developments of science. I have proposed an Initiative to End Hunger in Africa. By widening the use of new high-yield biocrops and unleashing the power of markets, we can dramatically increase agricultural productivity and feed more people across the continent.

Yet, our partners in Europe are impeding this effort. They have blocked all new biocrops because of unfounded, unscientific fears. This has caused many African nations to avoid investing in biotechnologies, for fear that their products will be shut out of European markets. European governments should

join, not hinder, the great cause of ending hunger in Africa.

We must also give farmers in Africa, Latin America, and Asia and elsewhere a fair chance to compete in world markets. When wealthy nations subsidize their agricultural exports, it prevents poor countries from developing their own agricultural sectors. So I propose that all developed nations, including our partners in Europe, immediately eliminate subsidies on agricultural exports to developing countries so that they can produce more food to export and more food to feed their own people.

The advance of freedom is also undermined by persistent poverty and despair. Half the human population lives on less than \$2 a day. Billions of men and women can scarcely imagine the benefits of modern life because they have never experienced them.

For decades, many governments around the world have made sincere and generous efforts to support global development. Far too often, these funds have only enriched corrupt rulers and made little or no difference in the lives of the poor. It's time for governments of developed nations to stop asking the simplistic question: How much money are we transferring from nations that are rich? The only question that matters is: How much good are we doing to help the people that are poor? The only standard worth setting and meeting is the standard of results.

The lesson of our time is clear: When nations embrace free markets, the rule of law, and open trade, they prosper, and millions of lives are lifted out of poverty and despair. So I have proposed the creation of a new Millennium Challenge Account, an entirely new approach to development aid. This money will go to developing nations whose government are committed to three broad standards: They must rule justly; they must invest in the health and education of their people; and they must have policies that encourage economic freedom.

To fund this account, I have proposed a 50-percent increase in America's core development assistance over the next 3 years. Under this proposal, our annual development assistance eventually will be \$5 billion greater than it is today. I urge the Congress to give

its full support to the Millennium Challenge Account. And when I'm in Europe, I will call on America's partners to join us in moving beyond the broken development policies of the past and encourage the freedom and reform that lead to prosperity.

These goals—advancing against disease, hunger, and poverty—will bring greater security to our country. They are also the moral purpose of American influence. They set an agenda for our Government, and they give idealistic citizens a great cause to serve. President Woodrow Wilson said, “America has a spiritual energy in her which no other nation can contribute to the liberation of mankind.” In this new century, we must apply that energy to the good of people everywhere.

For more than four decades, the volunteers of the Peace Corps have carried the good will of America into many parts of the world. Interest in this program is greater than ever before. I'm determined to double the size of the Peace Corps over the next 5 years. Today I would like to announce a new USA Freedom Corps initiative called Volunteers for Prosperity, which will give America's highly skilled professionals new opportunities to serve abroad. The program will enlist American doctors and nurses and teachers and engineers and economists and computer specialists and others to work on specific development initiatives, including those that I have discussed today. These volunteers will serve in the countries of their choice for however long their project takes. Like generations before us, this generation of citizens will show the world the energy and idealism of the United States of America.

I see that idealism in the faces of our soldiers and sailors and airmen and marines. I see that idealism in the faces of this Academy class. The men and women of the Coast Guard are “always ready” to defend the security of this Nation. You are “always ready” to rescue those in trouble. These two commitments define your mission, and they define America's role in history. We understand that strength is necessary to confound the designs of evil men. And we know that the compassion and generosity of this land can aid the suffering and inspire the world. We will use the great power of America to serve

the great ideals of America. And by these efforts we will build a lasting, democratic peace for ourselves and for all humanity.

Congratulations. May God bless the Class of 2003. May God continue to bless the United States of America. *Semper paratus.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:37 a.m. at Nelson W. Nitchman Field. In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Thomas H. Collins, USCG, commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; Rear Adm. R.C. Olsen, Jr., USCG, superintendent, United States Coast Guard Academy; Lt. Gov. M. Jodi Rell of Connecticut; and President Thomas E. Remengesau, Jr., of Palau, who presented a commission to the first Coast Guard Academy graduate from Palau. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Resignation of Christine Todd Whitman as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

May 21, 2003

Christie Todd Whitman is a trusted friend and adviser who has worked closely with me to achieve real and meaningful results to improve our environment.

Christie Todd has been a dedicated and tireless fighter for new and innovative policies for cleaner air, purer water, and better protected land.

In just over 2 years, we have acted in a comprehensive way to reduce pollution from diesel fuel sources and implemented an innovative initiative to better protect our water quality and watersheds. We are cleaning up abandoned industrial sites and turning them into assets for the communities in which they are located. We are also making great progress on the Clear Skies Initiative that I outlined to significantly reduce pollution from powerplants by 70 percent.

Christie Todd Whitman has served my administration exceptionally well. I thank her for her outstanding service to our Nation and wish her well as she returns home to New Jersey.

Proclamation 7680—National Maritime Day, 2003

May 21, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Today, as in the past, America depends on our maritime services to help ensure our security, promote our prosperity, and advance the universal hope of freedom. We honor the service and proud history of our merchant mariners and also recognize their important contributions in strengthening our economy.

For generations, merchant marines and commercial sailors have assisted in the defense of our Nation. Most recently, more than 5,000 merchant mariners supported Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom by serving aboard 157 ships moving essential supplies to our troops. As they continue to support our troops in the ongoing war on terror, their mission continues to be dangerous and difficult, and remains vital to our efforts to defend the peace.

We also remember the vital role the Merchant Marine has played in past conflicts. More than 6,000 merchant mariners lost their lives during World War II, and more than 700 U.S. merchant ships were lost. Even before the United States declared war, merchant mariners were making perilous runs to Europe with desperately needed supplies. President Franklin Roosevelt, the first President to issue a proclamation honoring merchant mariners, wrote of their role during wartime: "They have delivered the goods when and where needed in every theater of operations and across every ocean in the biggest, the most difficult and dangerous transportation job ever undertaken." We are grateful for the contributions and sacrifices of America's merchant mariners before and after World War II, in Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and around the world today.

In addition to their efforts to support our troops, merchant marines play a vital role in moving the goods that we produce around the United States and throughout the world. Their work provides jobs and economic benefits to our country, and strengthens our economy. By operating as the eyes and ears

of America at sea, they also help protect our homeland.

In recognition of the importance of the U.S. Merchant Marine, the Congress, by joint resolution approved on May 20, 1933, as amended, has designated May 22 of each year as "National Maritime Day," and has authorized and requested that the President issue an annual proclamation calling for its appropriate observance.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 22, 2003, as National Maritime Day. I call upon the people of the United States to celebrate this observance and to display the flag of the United States at their homes and in their communities. I also request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 23, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 27.

Remarks at the 2003 President's Dinner

May 21, 2003

Thank you all. Thanks for the warm welcome. It's always nice to have a nice quiet dinner with a few friends. [*Laughter*] Can't tell you how much we appreciate you coming, though.

First I want to thank my friend George Allen for putting together this fine event. I want to thank all those who've helped. I particularly want to thank all of you all for coming from all across the great country. Thank you for your support. It makes a huge difference to our "Grand Party." Your participation in the process makes a great difference to our great country.

All of us who serve this country have important responsibilities. You've got responsibilities at home to love your children with all your heart and all your soul. You've got responsibilities in your communities to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you're a CEO in corporate America, you have a responsibility to tell the truth to your employees and shareholders. And we have responsibilities here in Washington, DC, to work together to keep this Nation strong and secure and prosperous and hopeful, and we accept that responsibility.

I appreciate so very much the Speaker of the House, Denny Hastert. He is such a good Speaker. We want to keep him as the Speaker. And the same goes for the majority leader in the United States Senate, Senator Bill Frist. It is a joy to work with these two fabulous Americans.

I'm also honored to be on the—sharing the stage with the Senate dinner chairman, Senator Orrin Hatch from Utah; the chairman of the National Republican Campaign Committee from the State of New York, Congressman Tom Reynolds; the House dinner chairman, Congressman Dave Camp from Michigan. I want to thank all the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives who are here. America is fortunate to have you—your service on behalf of all of us.

I want to thank the members of the Cabinet who are here. I want to thank the Oak Ridge Boys for sharing their beautiful voices. Most of all, I want to thank you all for supporting us and what we're doing for the country.

For the last 2½ years, this country has faced incredible challenges, and those challenges brought out the best in America. The testing of America has revealed the spirit of America. The world has seen that we are courageous, resolute, tough when we have to be, and a compassionate people. The world has seen the strength and the idealism of the United States military. Thanks to the skill and courage of our troops and the technology of our military, the world has seen that the guilty have more to fear from the United States of America.

Thanks to the skill and bravery of our troops and coalition forces, because the guilty

can no longer hide behind the innocent, the world will be a more peaceful place. The terrorists will have fewer places to hide. Tyrants will no longer be free to enslave their people. Freedom has arrived in far corners of the Earth.

Every friend of this country and every enemy of this country can be certain America will always work to keep the peace, and we will always keep our word.

We're working hard to change the tone in Washington, DC, and I believe we have. We've raised the debate to focus on results and progress, and we're achieving great results for the American people. One reason we're able to do so is because I put together a fabulous team. To the Cabinet members here, I want to thank you for your service. But I do want to mention one member of my team that is not with us tonight but is doing a fabulous job for America, and that's the finest Vice President our Nation has ever known, Vice President Dick Cheney.

Now, my mother may have a different point of view—[*laughter*]*—but I got the mike. [Laughter]*

The Vice President and members of the Cabinet and everybody else who works for me is resolved to keep the vow we made to restore honor and dignity to the office of the President of the United States.

And I'm proud of the United States Congress. The Congress is focused on results, and they have delivered tremendous results for the American people: Major tax cuts so the working people can keep more of their own money; education reform; Homeland Security Department to better secure America; trade legislation. No, this Congress, instead of endless bickering and needless partisanship, has focused on what's—doing right for the American people. And I'm proud of what you all have done.

We've come a long way in 2½ years, but we've got a lot more work to do. We've got a lot to do. First, America is committed to expanding the realm of freedom and peace for our own security and for the benefit of the world. And second, in our own country we must work for a society of prosperity and compassion, so that every citizen has a chance to work and succeed and realize the

great promise of the United States of America.

Across the world it has never been more clear that the future of freedom and peace depend on the actions of the United States. This Nation is freedom's home and defender. We welcome this charge of history, and we will keep it.

As we saw again last week in Saudi Arabia and in Morocco, the war on terror continues. Our work is not done. The enemies of freedom are not idle, and neither are we. This country will not rest. We will not tire. We will not stop until the danger to civilization is removed.

Our national interest involves more than eliminating aggressive threats to our safety. Our greatest security comes from the advance of human liberty, because free nations do not support terror. Free nations do not attack their neighbors. Free nations do not threaten the world with weapons of mass murder. As Americans, we believe that freedom is the deepest need and hope of every human heart. And we believe that freedom is the right of every person and the future of every nation.

America also understands that unprecedented influence brings tremendous responsibilities. We have duties in the world. When we see disease, starvation, and hopeless poverty, we cannot and we will not turn away. On the continent of Africa, America is now committed to bringing the healing power of medicine to millions of men and women and children who suffer from AIDS.

I want to thank the United States Congress. I want to thank the House, once again, for voting for the package today to make sure that the great compassion of America is felt in some of the most hopeless corners of the world. I want to thank Henry Hyde and Dick Lugar and Bill Frist, who guided this important legislation through both Houses, a piece of legislation which I look so forward to signing next week before I go overseas. And when I go overseas, I will remind our partners in Europe about our great heart, our great compassion, and call upon them to join us in this great work.

We have challenges at home, and there's not doubt in my mind we are equal to those challenges. Our most urgent mission in the

months ahead is to strengthen this economy, to create the conditions for job growth, and to provide economic security and opportunity for all our American citizens. Prosperity is the result of hard work and the dreams of the American people. The role of Government is not to create wealth but the environment in which work and entrepreneurship pay off.

Republican Members of the House and Senate understand that. Each body has now passed additional tax relief to leave more money into the hands of the American people. See, we understand this: The money we talk about in Washington, DC, is not the Government's money. The money we talk about in Washington, DC, is the people's money.

Chairman Thomas in the House and Chairman Grassley in the Senate are working hard to reconcile any differences, and I'm confident they'll be able to do so and get a package to my desk that I can sign into law. The Members of the House and the Senate are results-oriented people. When they see a problem, they act. We want everybody in America who wants to work to be able to find a job.

Economic security also depends on a good education for every child. I came to Washington with a deep desire to pass fundamental reforms in education, to bring high standards, accountability, regular testing to every public school in America. With a solid bipartisan majority, we passed the No Child Left Behind Act. This is a good start, but it's only a start. And now we're working with Governors and chief school officers of every State to make reform a reality. Every child can learn the basics of reading and math, and every school must teach those basics. The days of excuse-making are over, and now we expect results in every classroom, so that not one single child in America is left behind.

We can use our past success as a model for meeting other priorities currently before the Congress. Members of the Congress are working with us now to strengthen and modernize Medicare, to give seniors more health care choices and access to prescription drugs. All of us on the Federal payroll get a choice in health care plans. Seniors ought to have the same choices. If choice is good enough

for Federal workers, it is good enough for the seniors in America.

Together, we've been working to cut down on frivolous lawsuits and pass meaningful medical liability reform. People who have been mistreated by doctors deserve a day in court. Yet the system should not reward lawyers fishing for large settlements. The medical liability issue is a national problem that requires a national solution. The House has passed a good bill, and the Senate should follow suit.

I also continue to work with the Congress to pass a comprehensive energy plan to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

We must also advance our agenda of compassionate conservatism. We have a responsibility to apply the best, most innovative ideas to the task of helping our fellow citizens in need. We must continue to work for meaningful, real welfare reform, to bring work and dignity into the lives of more and more Americans. The Congress should finish work on a faith-based bill to support the armies of compassion, for mentoring children and caring for the homeless and offering hope to the addicted.

I appreciate the hard work of Orrin Hatch and Bill Frist to make sure that our judiciary functions properly. I have submitted superb nominations to our Federal courts. The confirmation process in the United States Senate should be about justice, not about empty politics.

We have a full agenda for America, and a clear and optimistic vision for our future. We believe in an ownership society. We want Americans to own their own health plan. We want Americans to be able to start their own businesses. We want more families to own homes. We want people to be owning a piece of their retirement, so that every person has the dignity and independence that come from ownership, assets and property that they can call their own.

We also have a vision for a responsibility society. We're changing the culture in this country, from one that has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." The culture is shifting to one in which people know they're accountable for what they do, they're responsible for children they bring

into the world; a culture which says, "You have a responsibility to help a neighbor in need."

We can see the culture of service and responsibility is rising around us in America. We started what's called USA Freedom Corps, where response has been fantastic. Our fellow citizens from all walks of life, all political parties, have joined in making sure that people who hurt receive the love and affection they need. Our faith-based charities are strong and vibrant in America. We've got people who are willing to sacrifice on behalf of others, those who wear the uniform, the police and the firefighters. We've got people who are now serving in their communities and being held up as examples—positive examples—so that children can learn the meaning, the real meaning of hero. No, America's culture is changing and changing to the better.

It is such an honor to be the President of a great country. Our Nation has faced mighty challenges over 2½ years. We've been endured terrorist attacks, yet we have grown stronger. We've led the world in the fight against terrorism. We freed a great people from a ruthless dictator and eliminated the threat posed to world peace.

We met every challenge, and we will meet every challenge that comes, because this is the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And the reason it is, is because of the great strength and compassion of the American people.

It is such an honor to be here. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:20 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Senator George Allen of Virginia, chairman, National Republican Senatorial Committee; and entertainers the Oak Ridge Boys, who sang the national anthem.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

May 22, 2003

President's Legislative Agenda

The President. I just had a great meeting with Members of the House and Senate. The Vice President and I came up to congratulate

the Speaker and the leader on a season of accomplishment. We've got an obligation to help those who suffer. America's a great, strong country. We're also a compassionate country.

And I thank the Members of the House and Senate for passing an AIDS bill that will help the people of Africa, a really good piece of legislation, a great piece of work by the Speaker and the leader and other Members.

I also came to congratulate them on the soon-to-be passage of an economic jobs-and-growth bill. This is a Congress which is able to identify problems facing the American people and get things done. These are can-do people, and I'm real proud of the work they've done.

I look forward to signing the economic recovery bill soon. The principle of the bill is pretty simple, that we believe the more money people have in their pockets, the more likely it is somebody is going to be able to find work in America. In other words, the more money somebody has, it means somebody is more likely to demand a good or a service, which means somebody will produce a good or a service, which means somebody is likely to find work.

This bill I'm going to sign is good for American workers. It is good for American families. It is good for American investors, and it's good for American entrepreneurs and small-business owners. These two bodies are fixing to go on a well-deserved break. And when they come back, we're going to work together on reforming of Medicare.

Q. Mr. President?

The President. And furthermore—[laughter]—thank you for your time. [Laughter] Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:34 a.m. outside the House Chamber at the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of Joshua Bolten To Be Director of the Office of Management and Budget

May 22, 2003

The President. Good morning. The Office of Management and Budget is one of the most important agencies in our Government. This agency has a central responsibility for implementing the full range of this administration's agenda, from growing the economy and creating jobs to ensuring a strong national defense and a secure homeland. I depend on the OMB Director to keep a watchful eye on the taxpayers' money, to reform the operations of our Government, to make them better managed, more accountable, and driven by results.

I also depend on the Director to provide honest and thorough information on the state of our budget and to offer sound advice as we carry out our national priorities. For this essential position, today I nominate one of my closest and most trusted advisers, Joshua Bolten.

For more than 4 years, first in Austin and now in Washington, I have counted on Josh for his knowledge, his clear thinking, and his sound judgment. From his work in the private sector and practice of law in the investment banking world, Josh has a broad perspective on commerce and international economy. From his experience in both the executive branch and on Capitol Hill, Josh Bolten understands the workings of the Federal Government as well as anybody in this city. And most important, from his tenure as my Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Josh knows the philosophy and priorities of my administration.

Josh Bolten is brilliant. He is tireless. He remains calm in any storm. He is a man of complete integrity. No member of my staff has served with greater skill or earned greater respect amongst his colleagues than Josh Bolten. I'm honored that he's agreed to join my Cabinet.

When confirmed by the Senate, Josh will take over from a superb public servant, Mitch Daniels. Mitch has watched over the budget with a sharp eye and the common sense of a strong executive. He's insisted on good management of the people's money. He's done his job with great energy and consistent good humor. I have a feeling that Mitch's days in the public service are not over. I want to thank Mitch for serving our country so very well.

And now I'm pleased to introduce my choice as the next Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Josh Bolten.

[At this point, Joshua Bolten made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you all. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:58 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director-designate Bolten.

Statement on the Earthquake in Algeria

May 22, 2003

On behalf of the American people, I extend condolences to the people of Algeria for the terrible losses caused by yesterday's earthquake. I was deeply saddened to learn of the hundreds of deaths, the many injuries, and the major damage in towns east of Algiers and in the capital city. Our prayers are for the victims, their families, and the entire Algerian nation. The United States stands ready to help.

Statement on United Nations Security Council Action To Lift Sanctions on Iraq

May 22, 2003

Today's unanimous vote by the United Nations Security Council adopting Resolution 1483 to lift sanctions on Iraq will help the Iraqi people to rebuild their country and work toward a more prosperous and secure future, one in which they will govern them-

selves, rejoin the world economy, and remain at peace with their neighbors. The nations of the world have demonstrated their unity in their commitment to help the Iraqi people on their path toward a better future.

The Security Council's resolution affirms that the United Nations will have an appropriate vital role in Iraq's reconstruction and transition to a new government. It establishes a strong and important framework for many nations to participate in these activities. I look forward to the Secretary-General's appointment of a Special Representative as we work together to help Iraq recover from three decades of brutal dictatorship. I also look forward to the establishment of an Iraqi Interim Administration that is broadbased and represents all of Iraq's people so that Iraqis can participate as quickly and as fully as possible in the revitalization of their country.

The United States and its coalition partners will remain in Iraq as long as necessary to help put Iraq on the path toward democracy, with a united, representative government that respects human rights and the rule of law. We call on all countries to join in helping the Iraqi people achieve this goal as quickly as possible.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of an Unemployment Insurance Extension

May 22, 2003

I commend the House of Representatives for passing an unemployment insurance extension that will continue important additional assistance for American workers as our economy recovers. Combined with action on the jobs-and-growth package, Congress has taken important steps to help America's unemployed workers. I also urge Congress to pass legislation to create the innovative Re-employment Accounts I proposed to give certain unemployed individuals additional benefits and incentives to find work. I look forward to signing these measures into law.

Executive Order 13303—Protecting the Development Fund for Iraq and Certain Other Property in Which Iraq Has an Interest

May 22, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), section 5 of the United Nations Participation Act, as amended (22 U.S.C. 287c) (UNPA), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code,

I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, find that the threat of attachment or other judicial process against the Development Fund for Iraq, Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products, and interests therein, and proceeds, obligations, or any financial instruments of any nature whatsoever arising from or related to the sale or marketing thereof, and interests therein, obstructs the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq. This situation constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States and I hereby declare a national emergency to deal with that threat.

I hereby order:

Section 1. Unless licensed or otherwise authorized pursuant to this order, any attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process is prohibited, and shall be deemed null and void, with respect to the following:

- (a) the Development Fund for Iraq, and
- (b) all Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products, and interests therein, and proceeds, obligations, or any financial instruments of any nature whatsoever arising from or related to the sale or marketing thereof, and interests therein, in which any foreign country or a national thereof has any interest, that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons.

Sec. 2. (a) As of the effective date of this order, Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990, Executive Order 12724 of August 9, 1990, and Executive Order 13290 of March 20, 2003, shall not apply to the property and interests in property described in section 1 of this order.

(b) Nothing in this order is intended to affect the continued effectiveness of any rules, regulations, orders, licenses or other forms of administrative action issued, taken, or continued in effect heretofore or hereafter under Executive Orders 12722, 12724, or 13290, or under the authority of IEEPA or the UNPA, except as hereafter terminated, modified, or suspended by the issuing Federal agency and except as provided in section 2(a) of this order.

Sec. 3. For the purposes of this order:

(a) The term “person” means an individual or entity;

(b) The term “entity” means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, group, subgroup, or other organization;

(c) The term “United States person” means any United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States (including foreign branches), or any person in the United States;

(d) The term “Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products” means any petroleum, petroleum products, or natural gas originating in Iraq, including any Iraqi-origin oil inventories, wherever located; and

(e) The term “Development Fund for Iraq” means the fund established on or about May 22, 2003, on the books of the Central Bank of Iraq, by the Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority responsible for the temporary governance of Iraq and all accounts held for the fund or for the Central Bank of Iraq in the name of the fund.

Sec. 4. (a) The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, is hereby authorized to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and the UNPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this order.

The Secretary of the Treasury may redelegate any of these functions to other officers and agencies of the United States Government. All agencies of the United States Government are hereby directed to take all appropriate measures within their statutory authority to carry out the provisions of this order.

(b) Nothing contained in this order shall relieve a person from any requirement to obtain a license or other authorization in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Sec. 5. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Sec. 6. This order shall be transmitted to the Congress and published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 22, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:28 a.m., May 23, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 28.

**Message to the Congress Reporting
the Declaration of a National
Emergency With Respect to the
Development Fund for Iraq**
May 22, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), section 5 of the United Nations Participation Act (22 U.S.C. 287c) (UNPA), and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631, I hereby report that I have exercised my authority to declare a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat posed to the national security and foreign policy of the United States by the threat of attachment or other judicial process against the Development Fund for Iraq, Iraqi

petroleum and petroleum products, and interests therein, and proceeds, obligations, or any financial instruments of any nature whatsoever arising from or related to the sale or marketing thereof, and interests therein.

A major national security and foreign policy goal of the United States is to ensure that the newly established Development Fund for Iraq and other Iraqi resources, including Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products, are dedicated for the well-being of the Iraqi people, for the orderly reconstruction and repair of Iraq's infrastructure, for the continued disarmament of Iraq, for the costs of indigenous civilian administration, and for other purposes benefiting the people of Iraq. The Development Fund for Iraq and other property in which Iraq has an interest may be subject to attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process, thereby jeopardizing the full dedication of such assets to purposes benefiting the people of Iraq. To protect these assets, I have ordered that, unless licensed or otherwise authorized pursuant to my order, any attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process is prohibited, and shall be deemed null and void, with respect to the following:

- (a) the Development Fund for Iraq, and
- (b) all Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products, and interests therein, and proceeds, obligations, or any financial instruments of any nature whatsoever arising from or related to the sale and marketing thereof, and interests therein, in which any foreign country or a national thereof has any interest, that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons.

In addition, by my memorandum to the Secretary of State and Secretary of Commerce of May 7, 2003 (Presidential Determination 2003-23), I made inapplicable with respect to Iraq section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, Public Law 87-195, as amended, and any other provision of law that applies to countries that have supported terrorism. Such provisions of law that apply to countries that have supported terrorism include, but are not limited to, 28 U.S.C.

1605(a)(7), 28 U.S.C. 1610, and section 201 of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act.

I also have ordered that Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990, and Executive Order 12724 of August 9, 1990, which blocked property and interests in property of the Government of Iraq, its agencies, instrumentalities and controlled entities and the Central Bank of Iraq that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons, including their overseas branches, and Executive Order 13290 of March 20, 2003, which confiscated and vested certain Government of Iraq accounts, shall not apply to the Development Fund for Iraq or to Iraqi petroleum or petroleum products, and interests therein, and proceeds, obligations, or any financial instruments of any nature whatsoever arising from or related to the sale and marketing thereof, and interests therein.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, the authority to take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Executive Order, including the promulgation of rules and regulations. I have also authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and UNPA to carry out the purposes of the Executive Order. I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 22, 2003.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Contingent Emergency Request for the Department of Homeland Security

May 22, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-73, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropria-

tions Act, 2002, I hereby request and make available \$250 million for the disaster relief program of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

These funds would allow DHS to continue providing assistance for disasters in several States, including the recovery from damaging winter storms on the East Coast and recent tornado disasters in the Midwest. These funds also would be available for ongoing response to prior disasters and to ensure that DHS has resources on hand to provide timely response to future disasters.

I designate these funds made available today as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of this action are set forth in the attached letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Proclamation 7681—Prayer for Peace, Memorial Day, 2003

May 22, 2003

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

On Memorial Day, America undertakes its solemn duty to remember the sacred list of brave Americans who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom and the security of our Nation. By honoring these proud Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen lost throughout our country's history, we renew our commitment to upholding the democratic ideals they fought and died to preserve.

Each Memorial Day, we pray for peace throughout the world, remembering what was gained and what was lost during times of war. From the bravery of the men at Valley Forge, to the daring of Normandy, the courage of Iwo Jima, and the steady resolve in Afghanistan and Iraq, our men and women in uniform have won for us every hour that

we live in freedom. During this year's observance, we particularly recognize the courageous spirit of the men and women in our Nation's Armed Forces who are working with our coalition partners to restore civil order, provide critical humanitarian aid, and renew Afghanistan and Iraq. As we honor those who have served and have been lost, we better understand the meaning of patriotism and citizenship, and we pledge that their sacrifices will not be in vain.

Throughout our history, the decency, character, and idealism of our military troops have turned enemies into allies and oppression into hope. In all our victories, American soldiers have fought to liberate, not to conquer; and today, the United States joins with a strong coalition in the noble cause of liberty and peace for the world. On this day, America honors her own, but we also recognize the shared victories and hardships of our allied forces who have served and fallen alongside our troops.

The noble sacrifices of our service men and women will not be forgotten. Every name, every life is a loss to our military, to our Nation, and to their loved ones. Americans stand with the families who grieve, and we share in their great sorrow and great pride. There will be no homecoming on this Earth for those lost in battle, but we know that this reunion will one day come.

In respect for their devotion to America, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved on May 11, 1950, as amended (64 Stat. 158), has requested the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer. The Congress, by Public Law 106-579, has also designated the minute beginning at 3:00 p.m. local time on that day as a time for all Americans to observe the National Moment of Remembrance.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Memorial Day, May 26, 2003, as a day of prayer for permanent peace, and I designate the hour beginning in each locality at 11:00 a.m. of that day as a time to unite in prayer. I also ask all Americans

to observe the National Moment of Remembrance beginning at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day. I urge the press, radio, television, and all other media to participate in these observances.

I also request the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff until noon on this Memorial Day on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States, and in all areas under its jurisdiction and control. I also request the people of the United States to display the flag at half-staff from their homes for the customary forenoon period.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:48 a.m., May 27, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 23, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 28.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan in Crawford, Texas May 23, 2003

President Bush. Welcome. I'm honored to welcome my very good friend, the Prime Minister of Japan, to Crawford. He was a gracious host when I visited Japan, and Laura and I are pleased to return the hospitality.

We have met nine times during my Presidency. I know the Prime Minister well. I trust his judgment. I deeply respect his leadership. Our meeting today affirms the close and unique relationship between our two nations.

For the past half-century, America has been committed to the security of Japan and to the stability and prosperity of the entire Asia Pacific region. Japan and the United States have a global alliance, a partnership

based on shared interests and a shared belief in the cause of freedom.

The Japanese Government demonstrated its commitment to peace and freedom, along with America, that Saddam Hussein's regime live up to its international obligations. I appreciate the Prime Minister's strong leadership on Iraq as well as Japan's diplomatic and financial support for key regional states affected by the conflict.

Today Japan is committed to playing a leading role in Iraq's long-term reconstruction, will also provide immediate assistance for schools, medical supplies, and sanitation. Japanese forces will provide logistical support for humanitarian and reconstruction activities. I thank the Prime Minister for his leadership.

Around the globe, Japan and America are addressing threats to our common security and meeting our common responsibilities. We are partners in the war on terror. In Afghanistan, Japanese naval ships helped refuel coalition vessels in the fight against the Taliban. Today we're working together to complete a major highway that will help unify Afghanistan, strengthen that country's economy, and weaken the grip of the warlords.

Our two nations are committed to the fight against global poverty, hunger, and disease. We are committed to completing the WTO global trade negotiations, so we can advance prosperity around the world.

The Prime Minister and I also discussed his policies for reinvigorating the Japanese economy, including his plans for encouraging investment, corporate restructuring, and banking reform. I support the Prime Minister's efforts, and I support the Prime Minister's reforms. A vibrant, dynamic Japanese economy is in America's interest, and it is in the world's interest.

Our two countries are also determined to confront the threat from weapons of mass destruction and the missiles used to deliver them. The Prime Minister and I agree that we will deepen and accelerate our cooperation on missile defenses.

On the threat from North Korea's nuclear program, the Prime Minister and I see the problem exactly the same way. We will not tolerate nuclear weapons in North Korea. We will not give into blackmail. We will not settle

for anything less than the complete, verifiable, and irreversible elimination of North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

We discussed the fact that China has started to play an important role in our efforts to address this challenge. At talks held in Beijing last month, China called on North Korea to renounce nuclear weapons and live up to its agreements. The Prime Minister and I agreed that we must broaden these talks to include Japan and South Korea and, at some time later, perhaps others. We are confident that our diplomatic approach will bring a peaceful solution. Yet we agreed that further escalation of the situation by North Korea will require tougher measures from the intelligence community.

Finally, I assured the Prime Minister that the United States will stand squarely with Japan until all Japanese citizens kidnapped by North Korea are fully accounted for. I strongly condemn the kidnapping of Japanese citizens by the North Koreans.

Nearly 150 years have passed since the United States and Japan opened up diplomatic relations. Since then, we have gone from strangers to adversaries to the very best of friends. I look forward to building on our strong relationship to meet the challenge of our times.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Koizumi. I'd like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the President and the First Lady for their heartwarming welcome and hospitality. We were able to have in-depth and very candid discussions in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

In the 150 years since the arrival of Commodore Perry to the shores of Japan, we have developed into strong allies, and we've been able to confirm those strong relations between our two countries, not just in the context of a bilateral relationship but also in the global context. The Japan-U.S. security arrangements are a pillar that supports our alliance. We decided to further promote consultations between our Governments and to make our cooperation in the security area even stronger.

Ballistic missile defense is an important agenda in Japan's defense policy, and Japan will further accelerate its consideration. In addition, we concurred on the importance of

reducing the burden on the people of Okinawa.

Now, the other pillar is the economy. The Japanese and U.S. gross domestic products together would account for 40 percent of global GDP. So it is vital for the world economy, not just the Japanese and U.S. economies but for the world economy, that the Japanese and—or rather, it is vital for our two countries as well as for the entire world economy that the Japanese and U.S. economies are healthy.

And the most important mission of my Cabinet is to revitalize the Japanese economy. And I have the support of President Bush in my efforts to further accelerate structural reforms. And to achieve that goal, I'll tackle deflation. I shall never allow a financial crisis to occur. So, not just in the security area but also in the economic area, and others as well, I would like to promote further cooperation between our two countries on various issues, from the perspective of Japan-U.S. alliance in a global context.

We are determined in the pursuit of our fight against terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Now, of course, we have different roles and different means to play out those roles. But to root out terrorism, Japan and the United States should continue with firm determination to join their forces.

Now, on Iraq, the President made a difficult and brave decision for a just cause, and I supported this, and our decision was right. With Memorial Day coming up, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the brave U.S. men and women in uniform who sacrificed their lives for the cause as well as to their families.

I welcome the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1483. And I saw eye-to-eye with President Bush that we shall continue to cooperate with each other in order to build up international cooperation. Japan will actively support Iraq's nation-building.

And I believe that taking advantage of this cessation of combat in Iraq, and through the reconstruction of Iraq, we should—the world, as a whole, should cooperate together in order to bring about peace and stability in the Middle East. And I would like to express my respect for the active efforts the

President has been making in the Middle East. I shall be visiting Egypt and Saudi Arabia on this trip, and together with the Arab countries, I would like to engage in efforts to reconstruct Iraq.

The issue of North Korea's nuclear weapons is a grave challenge to entire world. We will not at all tolerate the possession, the development, or the transfer of nuclear weapons by North Korea. North Korea must promptly and completely dismantle all nuclear weapons development programs in a verifiable manner, and we agreed that we would resolve this issue peacefully.

Coordination among Japan, the United States, and the Republic of Korea is crucial to that end. Continuation of the multilateral talks is important, and participation by Japan and the Republic of Korea is essential. Further escalation of the situation by North Korea would require tougher measures.

In any event, Japan will crack down more rigorously in illegal activities, and the North Koreans will have to understand that threats and intimations will have no meaning whatsoever. It is extremely important for Japan to comprehensively resolve the various issues, including nuclear weapons, missiles, and abduction, based on the Pyongyang Declaration. And without the resolution of these issues, normalization of relations will not occur.

And I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the President for his strong support on the abduction issue.

In any case, I would like to take this occasion to express my heartfelt respect to the President for the strong leadership he has exerted since the 9/11 terror attacks the year before last as well as the strong determination he showed in addressing—as a wartime President. And I would like to say that Japan will, as much as possible, strive with the United States for world peace and stability.

Yesterday and today I spent many hours—and I've never spent so many hours discussing various issues with a head of state or head of government. And we discussed all sorts of issues very candidly and in-depth. I learned from the President that the word "Texas" also means "friend." So, my appreciation, my heartfelt appreciation goes to the President and Mrs. Bush for their very warm

hospitality and to the personal friendship that the President has shown.

President Bush. Absolutely.

Listen, we'll answer two questions a side, alternating. Please address—so don't—one of these things where you ask me and ask the Prime Minister or vice versa. Let's just ask one question to one of us as we rotate back and forth, if you don't mind.

Scott [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press], will you please set the example.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. I just have one question, and that's that Sharon embraced the roadmap today. How significant is that? Where do we go from here? And will you meet with him and Abbas in Egypt or Europe?

President Bush. Prime Minister Sharon accepted the roadmap, and that's progress. He accepted it because I assured him that the United States is committed to Israel's security and that, since we're committed to Israel's security, as we move forward we will address any concerns that might arise regarding Israel's security.

I'm exploring the opportunities as to whether or not I should meet with Prime Minister Abu Mazen, as well as Prime Minister Sharon. If a meeting advances progress toward two states living side-by-side in peace, I will strongly consider such a meeting.

I'm committed to working toward peace in the Middle East. Last week I talked to the Prime Minister of Israel as well as to the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, and I met with the Finance Minister of the Palestinian Authority. I understand it's going to be difficult to achieve peace, but I believe it can happen.

Do you want to call on a member of the Japanese press?

Japan's Role in Iraqi Reconstruction

Q. I'd like to ask questions relating to the Japanese self-defense forces in connection with the assistance for Iraq's reconstruction. First question for President Bush. Would you expect Japanese contributions to the extent that the Japanese self-defense forces would go into Iraq on the ground for supporting Iraq's reconstruction?

And a question for Prime Minister. Would you consider legislating new law to enable that?

President Bush. Let me answer first. I expect Japan to participate to the extent that the Prime Minister deems is necessary to fulfill the commitment. He tells me he's going to help in the reconstruction of Iraq. I believe him.

Prime Minister Koizumi. Well, this question related to the dispatch of Japanese self-defense forces. We are already considering the dispatch of self-defense force airlift capabilities in the countries neighboring Iraq for humanitarian purposes.

More specifically, with regard to the question of sending self-defense forces into Iraq for aiding Iraq's reconstruction, now that the U.N. resolution has passed, upon return to Japan we shall study in detail what Japan can do for the reconstruction of Iraq. At any rate, the question of what Japan can do for helping Iraq reconstruction is a matter for Japan to decide.

I also believe it is important that Japan make contributions for Iraq's reconstruction in a prudent manner, in view of Japan's own strength. And we shall cooperate with the United States; we shall cooperate with the United Nations for the reconstruction of Iraq. So we shall consider what Japan can do as an initiative-taking country for the reconstruction of Iraq.

President Bush. Randy [Randall Mikkelsen, Reuters].

North Korea

Q. Mr. President, you said today that an escalation of North Korea of its nuclear activities will require tougher measures. But right now they possess nuclear weapons you say you won't tolerate. So at what point would you need to increase pressure if they simply do nothing?

President Bush. Well, the first step was to convince China to participate in the process of saying to North Korea that acceptance by the international community and potential help will come when they change their behavior and their attitude toward nuclear weapons. This message has been delivered, and the North Koreans are thinking about it. Should they choose to move forward,

which we hope they do, then we will have the Japanese and South Koreans join the dialog so that there's now five of us sitting around the table, all discussing how to see that the Korean Peninsula is nuclear-weapons-free.

And the importance of this meeting today should say to the world that Japan and the United States stand shoulder-to-shoulder on the issue of North Korea's nuclear weaponry. I believe that we can solve this peacefully. I believe that diplomacy can work. And as importantly, Japan and the United States will not be blackmailed by North Korean threats, and that's important for the North Korean leadership to know.

Q. I'd like to ask this question of—to both leaders. On this—I understand that in your meeting today you reconfirmed that you'll seek peaceful resolution of this North Korean nuclear issue. The question is, do you think that North Korea, that regime under the leadership of Kim Chong-il can really be a counterpart in negotiations for a peaceful resolution of the problem?

Prime Minister Koizumi. On this point let me first say that President Bush was stating very clearly that our response to North Korea would be different from that to Iraq. Now, the U.S. position, I understand, is that all options will remain available, but the United States, or President Bush was saying that he was confident that a peaceful resolution can be achieved.

Japan certainly will also seek a peaceful resolution. And I would like to engage in various ways to appeal to the North Koreans and make them understand that instead of becoming isolated from the international community, it is most important for them to become a responsible member of the community of nations, and that is most important not just for North Korea itself but for the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and for the entire world.

President Bush. Thank you very much.

Annika Sorenstam

Q. A golf question, sir?

President Bush. Golf?

Q. What do you think about Annika Sorenstam?

President Bush. I'm impressed by Annika Sorenstam. I hope she makes the cut. I'm pulling for her, and I hope I'll be watching her on Saturday and Sunday.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:30 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) and Finance Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority; and Annika Sorenstam, a leading golfer in the Ladies Professional Golf Association, who played in the Professional Golf Association's Bank of America Colonial tournament. A reporter referred to Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea. Prime Minister Koizumi spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Proclamation 7682—National Missing Children's Day, 2003

May 23, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On National Missing Children's Day, we join with families, law enforcement officials, and child advocates to highlight our commitment to stopping the abduction and exploitation of children. During this year's observance, we celebrate the progress we have made in safeguarding children, and we renew our dedication to protecting our most vulnerable citizens and our most valuable resources.

The Department of Justice estimates that more than 50,000 children will be victims of nonfamily abductions each year. While the rate of recovery in such kidnappings is approximately 99 percent, the trauma of abduction affects far too many. No young person in America should ever know the terror of abduction, and no family should ever have to experience the nightmare of having a loved one suddenly taken.

The safety and well-being of our children is a shared responsibility for all Americans and for Federal, State, and local authorities. My Administration is making the prevention and investigation of child abductions a top

priority. We are working to use available resources to educate our citizens about how to prevent child abductions. We are also creating new lines of communication between authorities and the public to help find and safely return missing children to their families. We will continue to vigorously prosecute and severely punish those who would harm our children.

To further these efforts, in August 2002, my Administration released a new guidebook, "Personal Safety for Children: A Guide for Parents" to teach parents steps to improve their children's safety. Since then, copies have been distributed to public and private schools and public libraries throughout the country, in both English and Spanish. In October 2002, I convened the first White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children to promote public awareness of the issues and to generate recommendations and best practices from experts. And in December 2002, I signed legislation creating the Dot Kids domain, a child-friendly zone on the Internet. The sites on this domain are monitored for content and safety, offering parents peace of mind knowing that their children can learn in a safe and healthy environment.

Last month I signed the PROTECT Act, an important law that provides valuable new ways to deter, investigate, prosecute, and punish crimes against America's children. The PROTECT Act also builds on my Administration's ongoing efforts to expand and improve the AMBER Alert program, which has become an increasingly important tool to help rescue kidnapped children by quickly getting key information about the missing child and the suspect to the public. This law formally establishes the Federal Government's role in the AMBER Alert system and equips the Department of Justice to help State and local officials develop, enhance, and coordinate AMBER plans across America.

Our Nation has come to know the names and faces of far too many children because they have been the victims of acts of cruelty and violence. These crimes break our hearts and stir our anger. Our Nation shares the joy of the parents who are reunited with their children, and prays with those who are still

hoping and waiting. We grieve with every family that has suffered the loss of or injury to a child. We will continue the fight against the threats that our children face.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 25, 2003, as National Missing Children's Day. I call upon Americans to join me in commemorating this observance by celebrating those children who have been returned to their loved ones, remembering those young people who are missing, and continuing to work together on every front to protect our children from those who would seek to harm them.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 28, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 29.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 17

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

May 18

During the day, the President returned to Washington, DC.

May 19

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the

National Security Council. Later, he met privately with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines in the Oval Office. The two Presidents then held an expanded bilateral meeting in the Cabinet Room.

In the afternoon, the President met with Vice President Dick Cheney and Republican congressional leaders on the Truman Balcony to discuss proposed tax cut legislation.

During the day, the President met with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.

May 20

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East and the war on terror. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

Later in the morning, the President met with President Rafael Hipolito Mejia Dominguez of the Dominican Republic in the Oval Office to discuss bilateral trade relations. President Bush then had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel to offer condolences concerning the recent terrorist bombings in Israel.

In the afternoon, the President met with the Homeland Security Council. Later, in recognition of Cuban Independence Day, he held a roundtable discussion in the Roosevelt Room with Cuban dissidents and former political prisoners.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan to Camp David, MD, on June 24 to discuss regional and international issues and bilateral relations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Penrose C. Albright to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Plans, Programs, and Budgets.

The President announced his intention to reappoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Federal National Mortgage Association: Victor Henderson Ashe (community interests); Molly Hering Bordonaro (real estate); William Robert Harvey (mortgage lending); Manuel J. Justiz (public); and Taylor C. Segue III (homebuilding).

May 21

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to New London, CT.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

Later in the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Finance Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East. Later, also in the Oval Office, he met with former Senator John Danforth, Special Envoy to the Sudan, and Secretary of State Colin L. Powell to discuss the peace process in the Sudan.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Poland, Russia, and France beginning May 30 to meet with foreign leaders and participate in the G-8 Summit in Evian-les-Bains, France.

The President announced his intention to appoint Louis Wade Sullivan (who, upon appointment, will be designated Chair) and Eugene Hale as members of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

May 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with President Jacques Chirac of France to discuss the global economy, the continuing threat of international terrorism, and the upcoming G-8 Summit.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush greeted Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan. Later, the President took Prime Minister Koizumi on a tour of the Bush Ranch.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner with Prime Minister Koizumi.

May 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Luiz Inacio

Lula da Silva of Brazil to the White House on June 20.

The President declared a major disaster in Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and high winds on May 5–8.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 22

Brian F. Holean, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Mary Ellen Abrecht, retired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released May 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 289

Fact sheet: Announcements Related to the Visit of President Arroyo

Released May 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Musharraf of Pakistan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's meeting with President Mejia Dominguez of the Dominican Republic

Fact sheet: National Policy on Ballistic Missile Defense Fact Sheet

Released May 21

Transcript of a press gaggle by Assistant Press Secretary Sean McCormack and USA Freedom Corps Director John Bridgeland

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Travel to Poland, Russia, and France

Statement by the Press Secretary: Announcement of Intent To Negotiate a United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Frances Fragos Townsend as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Combating Terrorism

Fact sheet: The Advance of Freedom and Hope

Released May 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Announcement of nomination for an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Released May 23

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Mississippi

Statement by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the U.S.-Israel discussions on the Roadmap for Peace in the Middle East

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved May 19

H.R. 289 / Public Law 108–23
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Expansion and Detroit River International
Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act